MASS.
EMA1.3:

UMASS/AMHERST
312066 0277 9861 5

A55. EMA1.3: vol.3/no.1

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION
JUL 21 1995
University of Massachusetts
Depository Copy

# MEMA NEWS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Massachusetts
Emergency Management Agency
Volume III | Spring 1995 | Number 1

## UPCOMING EVENT

"Battles aren't won on the battlefield. Battles are won by logistics." It's true of our battles against disaster as well.

But where do you find strategic training for disaster management? Where do you find someone who even admits to being able to TEACH strategic management for emergencies? At the National Institute for Urban Search and Rescue Training Conference in Andover, Massachusetts, 20 minutes outside of downtown Boston, on May 3-7, 1995. That's where!

The National Institute for Urban Search and Rescue has assembled a prestigious group of instructor's and lecturer's from the New England states and from across the country to explore the strategy of emergency management. How do you assess the true risk of future disasters? How do you organize your EOC, DFO, or Multi-agency Coordination Center (MACS)? How do you provide logistical support for catastrophic events? What is your most effective training delivery in today's dollar crunch? All this and more at this exciting and informative conference. Watch your mailbox for a full brochure, or call Kevin Tully at (508) 640-9500.

## Area IV Hosts HAZMAT Conference

Close to 300 public safety officials, emergency managers, responders and industry representatives gathered at the Inn at Northampton on November 2, for a Hazardous Materials Conference, sponsored by Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) through SARA Title III funding. Among the public officials attending were Northampton Mayor Mary L. Ford, Kenneth Plumley, Governor's office, Dale Jenkins, Under Secretary of Public Safety, and David Rodham, Director of Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

The Conference program addressed current hazardous materials mandates and issues, community implementation of OSHA and LEPC requirements, hazardous materials response and the Incident Command System. Among the speakers were Carol Burns of ccB, Inc., Dave Slowick, Chief of Emergency Response for Mass. Department of Environmental Protection, Mark Malchick of Geoenvironmental Tech. Inc., John Youker, Rensselaer County Emergency Services Coordinator for New York State, Ed Jamro, Manager of Environmental Protection from Monsanto Chemical, and James Tobin, Fire Chief of Pittsfield.

The program included both State and Federal informational booths and was free to public officials and representatives of business and industry from the New England States. The Conference received top notch reviews from all the attendants that were present. As one local Emergency Manager put it "All of us came away with a greater appreciation of the problems facing emergency response personnel as well as how to properly deal with them."

Altogether, the HAZMAT Conference under the leadership of the Area IV Director John T. Pappas and his staff was excellent. (John Pappas)

## In this Issue:

Local Directors Recognized.............2
Radio Improvements........................3
Training Opportunities.................. 3
News Service.............................4,5,9
Winter Storm Conference................6
Community Outreach......................7
Seabrook Exercise...........................7
Working Together...........................8
Weymouth Hurricane Classes.......10
Southwick's New E.O.C................10
Air Crash Conference.................... 10
Public Safety Fair.......................... 11

Publication Number 17053
Pages: 12
600 Printed
Estimated Cost $400
March 1995

Approved by Philmore Anderson III,
State Purchasing Agent
William F. Weld, Governor
David Rodham, Director

I'm pleased to have the MEMA Newsletter again published, and we will do our best to get back to the regular quarterly schedule. Our new Editor is Bryan Clain assisted by Kay Fox with word processing. Bryan is a Nuclear Safety Planner with our agency and supervises Document Control.

Since our last issue, MEMA assisted by the entire emergency management community has scored many successes. Hazardous material conferences in Area I and IV were well attended and highly informative. A "Winter Weather Conference" in Area II with some 450 attendants was a resounding success. In between these major events, the Seabrook Exercise was described by FEMA as our "best ever."

Other states are seeking our advice as the word spreads about our dynamic local emergency planning and hazard analysis programs.

As many of you know, Secretary of Public Safety Kathleen O'Toole has appointed me to be Acting Director of E-911 in addition to my duties as Director of MEMA. This assignment is natural given the similar emergency nature of the MEMA and E-911 organizations and should help to enhance the contribution to public safety of both groups.

I'd like to remind you that Emergency Management Week '95 is coming up on May 14 to 20, 1995. We urge you to take advantage of the opportunity to recognize those people who have contributed so much to your organization. MEMA will be holding another Public Safety Fair at the South Weymouth Naval Air Station and we invite all to become a part of it. Let us know how you intend to celebrate the week so we can help with the publicity.

Finally, this Newsletter is only as successful as the contributors and we ask all our readers to become contributors. What you are doing is not only interesting to others, it may also be a help in enhancing public safety in other communities. Keep those cards and letters coming!!

## Local Directors Recognized

Local Emergency Management Directors Allan I. Alpert of Chelsea and Mark Foster of Beverly, were recently issued a Certificate of Commendation from State Fire Marshal F. James Kauffman. Alpert and Foster have been working with the Marshal's Office and Sergeant Dennis Galvin of the Mass. State Police who is assigned to the Marshal's Office. The citation in the name of each director is signed by the Marshal and reads:

> For contributing to the effort to reduce the instances of death, injury and property loss by fire and explosion in this Commonwealth through the continuous and unwavering assistance in the provision of logistical support to the State Fire Marshal's Major Incident Response Team.

Directors Alpert and Foster on numerous occasions have been requested to the scene of multiple alarms of fire with their command units, when assistance was needed during the investigation of such fires. This is "Team Work" at its best stated Alpert. (Doug Forbes, Jr.)

## Announcement

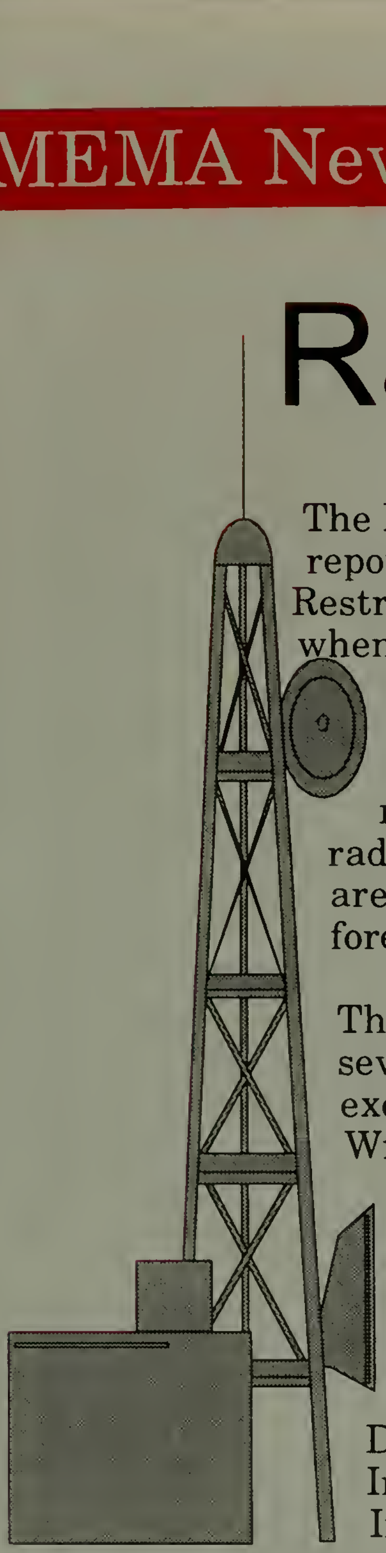
It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Clifford A. Phalen, former Director of Burlington Civil Defense.

Cliff served as director from 1974 59 1983 and had been associated with the Burlington Civil Defense since 1959. He was a founding member of the Burlington Auxiliary Fire Department and was instrumental in the development of Burlington's Civil Defense Programs in the past 35 years. He will be missed by his many friends and associates in the Public Safety Sector.

## From the Editor

As we went to print, this publication received a new editor, making this edition my only issue. As part of his duties as Disaster Preparedness Improvement Grant Coordinator, Marc Stern, MEMA's Public Information Officer, will be assuming editorship as of the next issue. Please send all submissions to Marc Stern, Public Information Officer, MEMA, P.O. Box 1496, Framingham, MA 01701-0317. Submissions for the June edition should be sent by May 1.

# Radar Improvements



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that another significant milestone in the Modernization and Restructuring of the National Weather Service occurred on December 15, 1994, when the Next Generation Doppler Weather Radar (WSR-88D) at the Taunton, MA Weather Forecast Office was officially commissioned.

The forecast office and associated weather radar is part of a nationwide network of 117 similar facilities. Taking advantage of the state-of-the-art radar and high tech computer and communications equipment, meteorologists are significantly improving the accuracy and timeliness of their warnings and forecasts.

The Taunton Weather Forecast Office will provide weather services such as severe storm warnings and watches for Rhode Island; all of Massachusetts except Berkshire County; northern Connecticut (Hartford, Tolland, and Windham Counties); and southern New Hampshire (Cheshire and Hillsborough Counties). The new radar will provide coverage for the area within a 125-mile radius of the office including most of southern and central New England and adjacent coastal waters. Additional radar coverage for New England will be provided from modernized facilities in Gray (ME); Burlington (VT); Albany (NY); and Brookhaven (NY).

Designated BOX, the modernized facility is located at the Myles Standish Industrial Park in the north part of Taunton. (Bob Thompson, Meteorologist In Charge, NOAA)

---

# Training Opportunities

Among the most regularly offered training programs have been the Fundamentals Course for Radiological Monitors (FCRM) and the Refresher Course for Radiological Monitors (RCRM). These workshops have run 12 and four classroom hours and respectively, and earned the same number of Emergency Medical Service (OEMS) Continuing Education Credits as their classroom hours.

There are now some new options available for students who are willing to trade EMT Credits for classroom hours saved. The FCRM program can be cut to only eight classroom hours if students first complete the Independent Study Course IS-3 Radiological Emergency Management and pass the test. That course is available in textbook format or computer-based training which requires access to an IBM-compatible personal computer with 640K memory and 5 1/4" diskette drive.

However, EMT Credits will only be given for the classroom hours (8). The RCRM is available entirely as an Independent Study IS-330 Refresher Course for Radiological Monitors. This course will carry no EMT Credits but requires no classroom time. The student uses videotape and a work book to review the material and needs only access to a 1/2" VHS video player and a TV. MEMA will offer the programs in the older format or assist in obtaining the new. For further information, call Arlene Margolis, Training Program Manager at (508) 820-2018.

# NEWS SERVICE

The following stories first appeared in local newspapers. Congratulations to all for continuing to bring Emergency Management to the public's attention.

**From *The Sunday Brockton Enterprise*, November 6, 1994, by Elaine Allegrini**

Green smoke billowed from the crash scene, signaling a danger to the first emergency responder, who soon learned that deadly chlorine gas was spilling from a tank truck which had collided with a van.

"Is anyone hurt?" officer Thomas Kelley shouted as he stood 50 to 75 feet from the Route 80 "crash" scene on Saturday morning.

He heard a faint response from inside the van.

Responding firefighters and paramedics donned protective gear and breathing apparatus to approach the "crash" where they found six people injured inside the van. The road was closed to all but emergency personnel, and another ambulance was called to the scene.

The green smoke soon turned to purple, then red.

The wind direction was variable as the toxic fumes spread out, threatening nearby residential areas. The poisonous vapors could be harmful if inhaled or absorbed by the skin. They could cause dizziness or even death, emergency responders learned from dispatchers.

In reality, there was no danger on Saturday morning. The events were staged by the Kingston police and fire departments in conjunction with the town's emergency management agency and the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department.

(cont. page 5)

---

**From *The Daily Transcript*, October 7, 1994, by Bruce Pomfret**

Police Chief Robert Haas hopes residents never have to find out first-hand, but the Westwood Emergency Management Agency (WEMA) has been making some subtle changes to improve its response to local disasters.

"I think we are better prepared to deal with a catastrophe today then we were six months age," said Haas, a member of the agency.

WEMA responds to major snowstorms, hurricanes, toxic spills, natural gas leaks and any other potentially disastrous situations in town. It is made up of the heads of the Police, Fire, Health, Public Works and Building departments, a selectman, and the executive secretary.

By state law, every municipality must have a committee to plan for disasters.

The town is seeking Red Cross accreditation for the evacuation centers, a move which would open the door to Red Cross funds for local emergencies, according to Haas. If the town declares a state of emergency, Haas said, the Red Cross would pay the operating costs of the centers if they are accredited.

Last year, the evacuation centers were open for two snowstorms, said Haas.

"I look at emergencies as training experiences in themselves," said

(continued page 5)

---

**From *The Harwich Oracle*, October 7, 1994, by Scott Dalton**

In the event of a disaster in town, who would respond?

Thanks mainly to the gumption of two residents, Harwich now has the capability to coordinate emergency information on the go. Anthony Ross and Charlie Puzo worked in conjunction with Harwich police special officer Robert Currie and Capt. Peter Welch to create a mobile communications center. Mr. Ross and Mr. Puzo were appointed civil defense auxiliary police at Tuesday night's selectmen's meeting.

"Tony and I designed and wired this whole interior," Mr. Puzo said, gesturing to the vehicle's consoles.

The center features several radios linking it with various town departments that would need to be coordinated if Harwich faced a major disaster.

"If we had a situation where phone lines were washed out, we could sent this truck to the affected area," Capt. Welch explained.

Through the truck, residents of such an area could communicate fears and concerns to any one of the town's departments without having to travel to the station headquarters.

The outfitted truck comes at very little cost to the town's taxpayers. Capt. Welch said the truck was acquired with federal funds for a mobile command center. Most of the radio and computer equipment was donated by Harwich's ham radio operators. The computer is relayed through the operators' homes and communicate with off-Cape locations.

(continued page 5)

**From *The Walpole Times*, January 26, 1995, by Roger Turner, Walpole Emergency Management Agency Director**

[With the winter season upon us], Walpole Emergency Management (Civil Defense) asks, are you prepared for a winter storm, a hazardous material incident, an earthquake, a fire or other types of disasters?

The Walpole Emergency Management Disaster Preparedness Committee urges you to consider packing a 72-hour Disaster Pack for each member of the household. This pack should be stored in a convenient location and ready in the event that you and/or members of your family must evacuate your home. This pack will also be invaluable in the event that you become stranded in your home for an extended period of time.

Your Walpole Emergency Management Disaster Preparedness Committee recommends that each kit should include the following:

- Prescription medication that you are taking for heart, high blood pressure, diabetes or other medical problems.
- Small first aid kit and Kleenex.
- A change of clothes, especially extra socks, warm gloves, hat, underwear, a sweater or jacket.
- A picture ID and recent pictures of family members.
- An address and phone list of family members, relatives and important friends.
- Money for phone calls.
- A whistle to alert others; an aid in rescue, if you are caught in dense smoke or lost.
- Flashlight, a small portable radio, extra batteries. Batteries should be removed and kept separate.
- Books, games and playing cards will help make your stay more enjoyable.
- Two large plastic trash bags are always handy; with holes in them, they may be used as a poncho.
- Food such as granola bars, beef jerky, canned food that can be eaten cold (be sure to include a can opener, spoon and jackknife), raising, banana chips, dried fruit, life savers, hard candy, small plastic bottles of water and fruit juices, cans of soda or soft drinks. Please, no glass items as they are easily breakable.

All of the aforementioned items can be wrapped inside a sleeping bag or blanket roll. A strap around the bag will not only make a neat, easy-to-store pack, but will allow easy carrying.

All items should be wrapped in plastic bags to prevent them from getting wet.

For the home, we suggest a two-week stock of nonperishable food items. For planning purposes, we suggest at least one-half (1/2) gallons of bottled water for each member of the household.

---

(***Enterprise*** continued)

"We were very pleased with the operation," Fire Chief Jon Alberghini said as the termination signal went through the police and fire radio networks.

Although the Fire Department regularly conducts drills, this was the first cooperative effort with the Police Department and KEMA.

When all was done, the management team reviewed the exercise to determine if there were any flaws and make recommendations to improve tactics and procedures.

"This can be a real thing," Alberghini said. "Trucks like this are on the roads every day, vans, too."

In addition to bringing together various components of the emergency response teams, the drill was also staged to test the Police Department's newly implemented incident command system, according to Police Chief Michael DeCapua. The system was developed to bring in additional personnel for emergencies.

DeCapua and Alberghini did not participate in the actual response drill, but stood on the sidelines observing. Police Sgt. Wayne Cristani and Fire Capt. Robert Heath commanded the response from a communications center located on the perimeter of the evacuated area. A command post was set up in a sheriffs department van and a local emergency dispatcher was stationed there.

While the site commanders coordinated the evacuation effort, they were called on to respond to press inquiries. Six occupants of the van were injured and transported to area hospitals, Heath reported. he did not have conditions of the injured or names.

A decision was made to let the fire burn out itself, Heath said. "After consulting reference material and with minimum manpower, we agreed that the primary component was life safety."

This was a new experience, too, for Heath, one of the four members of the Kingston Fire Department who were promoted to captain last month.

Also participating in the drill were six members of a local law enforcement Explorer troop.

---

(***Transcript*** continued)

Haas, as he hoisted an 800-page WEMA document filled with emergency contingency plans onto his desk.

For example, WEMA learned some valuable lessons from the tanker truck that spilled thousands of gallons of tar onto Route 128 last year. During that emergency, the Highway Department cut an access road through the meridian to keep traffic flowing, the Fire Department kept the tar from contaminating the storm drains, and the police closed down exits to limit the cars on the highway.

---

(***Oracle*** continued)

"It is multi-functional in that it has fire department, highway department, police department, amateur radio and computer operations," Mr. Puzo said. "In addition, any information can be relayed to the civil defense headquarters in Bridgewater."

Capt. Welch applauded the men's efforts, saying they had done the work on their own time. Officer Currie also dedicated extensive time, working under the hood to get the truck ready.

# Area II Hosts Winter Storm Conference

MEMA Winter Storm Conference sponsored by Area II was a big success. Our students included Chiefs of Police and Fire, Highway Superintendents, Selectmen, State Representatives and many others. Our impressive audience was matched with an excellent faculty made up of key state officials, private industry executives and a member of the private non-profit community.

Thomas P. Rodger, Area II Director opened the Conference with an overview of the day's activities and an outline of the program's goals and objectives. Tom even provided us with the year's first real snowstorm as a visual aid! Director Rodham welcomed everyone to the program and shared how MEMA was working to improve service to local communities. Our Director drew upon his rich background in the public and private sectors to remind us who our customers really are...the people.

Kathleen O'Toole, our new Secretary of Public Safety, shared her ideas for improving public safety on state and local levels. Ms. O'Toole gave us a very honest and open appraisal of the way things are now, and the way they should be improved for the future.

Robert Thompson followed with a study of winter storms in New England. Bob's audio-visual presentation was excellent and we now have a better understanding of how storms are predicted.

Ron Martin of the Northeastern River Forecast Center built upon Mr. Thompson's remarks explaining how river forecasts are developed and released to emergency management agencies.

Douglas Forbes, MEMA's Director of Planning, shared his experiences during the "Blizzard of '78", and those of more recent storms. Doug then went on to explain the latest changes in the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan that would help local communities in a winter storm emergency. Mr. Forbes closed with a short explanation of MEMA's new Standard Operating Procedures for all emergencies. Doug was surprised during the break when someone suggested that he write an article about his experiences.

Harvey Leonard, Channel 7 Lead Meteorologist, was the next speaker from our impressive team. Harvey is a long-time friend of public safety and has made himself available to assist local and state agencies during emergency operations. Mr. Leonard gave an excellent presentation on the media's role in notifying the public during a weather emergency.

Robert Ruscitto, a vice-president with Boston Edison, gave us a detailed overview on how the power companies respond to winter storms. The most interesting part of Mr. Ruscitto's remarks centered around the remote sensing devices the electric companies are now installing on their lines. In many problems without sending a person to visually inspect the wires. Through system improvements the utility can now re-route power so that power loss is cut to a minimum.

Paul Leavitt, Director of Emergency Management for NYNEX gave us an excellent presentation on the new E-911 program and explained the priority system for phone restoration.

Our final speaker was Liberty Black, Director of Emergency Service for the American Red Cross. Mr. Black explained how the Red Cross and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) could assist local communities in time of disaster. As VOAD grows, it continues to become a more important asset to our Agency.

Tom Rodger closed the Conference with a short evaluation and critique. Tom urged the attendants to try and put one or two things they learned during the program into practice.

The highlight of the Conference for all of us was the presentation of the Youth Volunteer Award to students serving in the field of emergency management. Secretary Kathleen O'Toole, Director Rodham, and Area II Director Thomas Rodger presented the awards to Stacy Boulier of Weymouth, Jason Perry of Berkley and Scott Stuart of Quincy.

It was great to have media present to take photos and write positive stories about the good things that many of our Massachusetts young people are doing. We've got some great kids out there!

Tom wishes to thank all the attendants, speakers, and workers that made this Winter Storm Conference such a success. He trusts that the information you received will make our communities safer places in which to live. (Doug Forbes, Jr.)

# Community Outreach

Third grade teachers and students from the Lincoln-Hancock School invited Quincy's Emergency Management Agency Acting Director Anthony "Tony Siciliano and Emergency Management's Incident Command System team members Thomas McGrath and James Timcoe to talk on Winter Storms, Air Crashes and Earthquakes.

McGrath and Timcoe are AFJROTC Quincy High School students and are actively involved in Emergency Management.

Videos were shown and equipment and resources were shown so that the third graders could see how the city would respond in the event of an emergency or disaster. All students were given coloring books and literature.

Acting Director Siciliano and team members have also been invited to speak on winter storms and other related issues at the Atlantic Neighborhood Center.

Acting Director Siciliano said that the city is fortunate to have our high school students actively involved in community service and speaking to children on Emergency Preparedness.

An ongoing program the Quincy High School for 9th graders is the Health Occupations Program. This program has been going on since last year with the cooperation of Eugene Creedon, Superintendent of Schools, Principal Lloyd Hill and Emily Lebo, R.N. Coordinator/Instructor, Health Occupations Program and her staff.

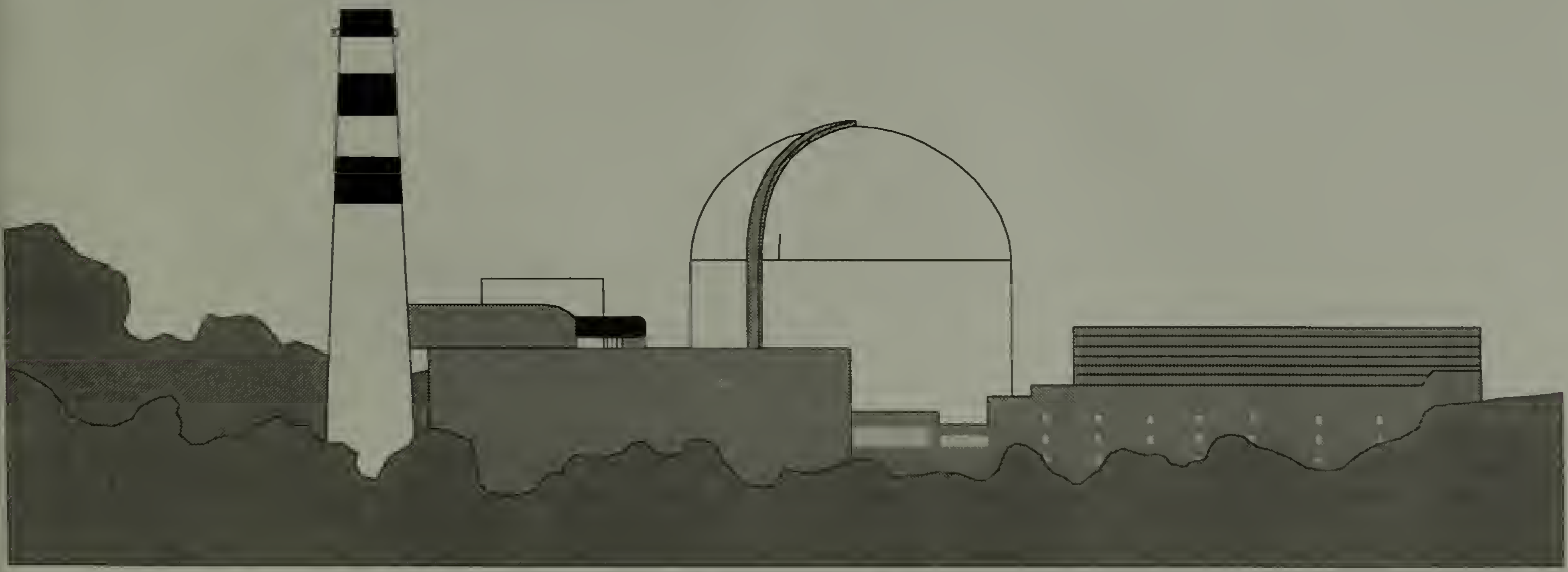
Any school, civic, non-profit organizations or business who would like Emergency Management personnel to make a presentation may contact the Quincy Emergency Management Agency by calling: 617-376-1234. (City of Quincy)

# Seabrook Exercise Assessment

"The most successful exercise ever" was the way Massachusetts Emergency Management Director David Rodham describes the Seabrook Exercise held on December 7 and 8, 1994. Eleven months of preparation culminated in the full-scale, federally-graded exercise involving the communities surrounding the nuclear power station located just over the state line in New Hampshire. Amesbury, Salisbury, Newbury, Newburyport, and West Newbury participated along with a number of state, federal, and private agencies, North Atlantic Emergency Services Corporation, and the neighboring state of New Hampshire.

Major features of this exercise included the Commonwealth's compensatory response for the town of Merrimac, which has declined to participate in emergency response for Seabrook Station. As called for in the compensatory plans, response for Merrimac was coordinated by MEMA's Area I Emergency Operation Center in Tewksbury and implemented jointly by the MEMA staff and the Massachusetts State Police deployed from the Newbury Barracks.

In the course of the exercise, the communities and the Commonwealth demonstrated alerting the general public, including persons with special needs, of an emergency; providing emergency public information to news media; traffic management during a simulated evacuation; access control around a restricted area; and coordination of emergency response with the State of New Hampshire and several federal agencies.



# Working Together

## Generators Lighten Police Work

John Pappas, our Area IV Director, reports that by the end of the month Holyoke Police, Fire and Civil Defense hope to have enough power through four portable electric generators to light up an area the size of a football field.

Two 5-kilowatt and two 3-kilowatt generators on two surplus trailers were given to the Police Department this past week as part of Project Northstar-Massachusetts, which is run by the Executive Office of Public Safety. Tags on the equipment show they come from an Army depot in Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

In the state's Northstar program, millions of dollars of surplus military items have been turned over to agencies in the past few years. This equipment is seen as a major boost to the city's ability to handle public safety emergencies in addition to drug enforcement use. For example, the generators could be used to search for evidence thrown to the ground during police chases. Captain Alan Fletcher of the Holyoke Police Department said, "Once it is operational, I believe we can get the generators and lights in operation anywhere in the city in 30 minutes."

The two Northstar trailers are stored at the Northampton Fire Station where they could be hauled to an emergency scene by the Fire Department's rescue truck. Two police pickup trucks and the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program Jeep, also obtained through Project Northstar, have hitches and could also pull the trailers to a police investigation scene. At this point no lights are with the generators, but that is not a major expense.

Michael Riley, who became Holyoke Civil Defense Director at the start of the year, said the generators could be used by the Civil Defense Department. The gasoline-powered generators could be used at night to light the cleanup site of hazardous spills or to keep life-saving equipment going at nursing homes in case of a blackout.

John Pappas is pleased that he already has many satisfied Northstar customers. John, along with the other area Directors, would like to encourage you to have your community sign up for the Northstar Program too! (Doug Forbes, Jr.)

---

# Island Meeting a Success

Recently, Tom Rodger, Jack Callahan, John Tommaney and I traveled out to Martha's Vineyard to present a SARA/Title III/LEPC Workshop for the Dukes County Communities. Tom Rodger opened the meeting with a complete overview of all MEMA programs including a special focus on training. Jack Callahan discussed how the E.P.A. could be of assistance to local communities. Jack stated that the E.P.A. does not come to an incident to take over, but rather to be a resource and assist the local public officials. John Tommaney addressed the value of an island-wide Local emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the sharing of resources and personnel. With an island-wide LEPC, it is easier to plan for a hazardous materials incident and to respond to the same. Finally, I had the opportunity to review the value and use of Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans including notification, mutual aid and the sharing of resources. All speakers stressed the value of teamwork and the response from those in attendance was very positive.

It's important to hold field meetings throughout the State because it's often difficult for local officials to come to us. It's especially difficult for folks on the island to visit us due to the high cost of bringing their car over on the ferry and possibly having to stay overnight as well.

We were very pleased with the tremendous turnout at our island meeting. This response tells us that we have many dedicated officials willing to give of their own time to make their communities safer places in which to live. This level of dedication should be an example to all of us in the emergency management field. (Doug Forbes, Jr.)

# MORE! NEWS SERVICE

**From *The Walpole Times*, November 3, 1994, by Sondra Fabiano**

If there were ever a plane crash, chemical explosion in town or a natural disaster that hits the region, such as hurricane, there is a group of Walpole residents along with the help of the Red Cross, who are prepared to respond.

During a unique program held in Walpole recently, over a dozen local residents joined together to acquaint themselves with ways of helping their family and community during the time of an emergency.

The free program, held at the Senior Center in the Town Hall was called "Shelter Operations" and focused on teaching the participants what it takes to set up and run, and then shut down, and emergency shelter.

Roger F. Turner, Jr. of Walpole, who has served as the director of the Walpole Emergency Management program for several years in town, helped to organize this event through the Northern Bristol-Norfolk Chapter of the American Red Cross.

He was please with the response to the program and said it is important to get new people involved and prepared in case of an emergency.

Turner said that this program is just one in a series being planned in regard to emergency management and that in the coming months, residents will be invited once again to come out and help.

The people in attendance at the program came from all walks of life, some nurses and EMT's (Emergency Medical Technicians) who had helped at emergency shelters in the past, while others were attending their first workshop about the issue in order to get involved and help.

The Shelter Operations course was taught by Kate Begin, a volunteer and certified Red Cross instructor who has been involved as a Red Cross official at disasters throughout the country.

Begin said when it comes to selecting a shelter in the town, there must be a lot of logistical planning. Often times, a school, church or large building with kitchens and showers are selected to accommodate the people in need.

Turner said Walpole has been lucky in past years that there has not been a great need for shelters, but that the town must be prepared to act.

He noted that the Johnson Middle School in west Walpole is the first choice for Walpole during an emergency and the Bird Middle School would be the second building suitable.

Begin said that having people in Walpole learn how to react in an emergency situation is a very important step.

"You can never take this knowledge away from us," she said. "If I ever got stuck in an emergency, I'd feel a lot better if it were in Walpole."

She told the participants that the main thing to remember is to use "common sense."

"These people need a roof over their head and you are there to them through a crisis," she said. "Anything can become a shelter if we are creative."

She pointed out that emergency shelter volunteers must also be flexible to react to all different types of problems.

No two disasters are alike. Disaster planning is an ongoing process and is constantly going through change," noted Begin. "You must be flexible enough to be creative."

Another major part of setting up a shelter is working on getting the displaced persons out of the shelter and to a relative's or friend's home. A shelter should not be held open any longer than necessary, she added.

Several of the people in the group were certified HAM radio operators, which, according to Begin, plays a vital role during emergencies when normal lines of communication (telephones) fail.

Begin, who is also a HAM radio operator, said people with these skills and tools are very important in a disaster, as they can sometimes be the only lines of communication with emergency officials.

She also said it is important for the volunteers to work as a team, led by a "shelter manager."

Because disasters can strike quickly and without warning, Begin said family members in town can do some of their own emergency planning. She presented the group with a "Family Disaster Plan," which outlined steps that can be taken to be prepared in an emergency.

The plan calls for keeping enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Also, assemble a disaster supply kit with items needed in an evacuation and store them in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as backpacks, duffel bags or covered trash cans.

# Weymouth Civil Defense Presents Hurricane Classes

Student in the Weymouth Public School System have a better understanding and awareness of hurricanes thanks to the efforts of Barry Wood, Weymouth civil Defense Public Information Officer. Mr. Wood initiated an "Educational Cooperative" between the public schools and civil defense department with the purpose of educating school age children about the real dangers of hurricanes. The "Co-op" was developed with the assistance of William Scott, Coordinator of Information and Statistical Services, Weymouth Public Schools, and Mary Ivens, MEMA Sector Director, Area II.

Mr. Wood made the presentations to classes during the last week of September, assisted by Al Boulier and Wilson Rodrigues, also of Weymouth Civil Defense. A series of two classes were presented to Weymouth 5th graders at each of Weymouth's two intermediate schools, reaching 525 students. The intermediate level program was entitled "Hurricane Safety," and encompassed such topics as Tornadoes and Earthquakes in New England, What Civil Defense Is and Does, Home Disaster Supplies and Deadliest and Most Costly Storms, as well as information relating to specific hurricanes of the past.

The high school presentation was entitled "Hurricane Safety and Tracking," and provided students with the opportunity to track Hurricane Bob as it occurred in 1991. The high school Earth Science classes participated in this program, which reached 78 students.

Mr. Wood followed each presentation with a question and answer session, and provided students with several handouts concerning hurricanes, safety, and civil defense. He received an enthusiastic response from both students and teachers. The Educational Cooperative will offer the hurricane program on an annual basis, and Weymouth Civil Defense plans to enhance next year's offering with a slide presentation.

Congratulations are in order for Weymouth civil Defense, Barry Wood and his colleagues who made this innovative project a success. (Mary Ivens)

---

# Southwick's New E.O.C.

The town of Southwick already had an E.O.C. of sorts; a basement room not much bigger than a closet, with a dirt floor. Nothing could be kept there because moisture ruined papers, radios, etc. However, this was Director Charlie Dunlap's official area to work out of in time of emergency.

John Pappas, our Area IV Director, has been holding monthly meetings with his local directors in a different community each time. Recently, it became Southwick's turn to host the Area IV monthly meeting. Director Dunlap went to the town fathers and told them he was going to host the regional meeting and the other directors wanted to see his E.O.C. The first suggestion Charlie received was to hold the meeting at the regional high school, but this required special permission. Mr. Dunlap was then asked if he thought he could share an office with another agency. Charlie agreed and a new Southwick E.O.C. was created!

Southwick Emergency Management Agency now shares an office with community development which provides him with modern office equipment and a phone. Southwick E.M. also received four other rooms which needed much repair and cleanup. Charlie's team went right to work and by the time the other local directors arrived, it was beautiful! He now has other plans to develop a radio room, kitchen sleeping quarters, meeting room, and even additional office space. (Doug Forbes, Jr.)

---

# Crash Conference

Most people probably believe that airplane crashes occur primarily at airports. After all, it does stand to reason; airplanes and airports do go together. However, if you look at the record, you will find that crashes don't always happen at airports; they can happen anywhere.

In light of this, the word for emergency management officials is prepare. Emergency managers have to get ready for crashes that occur at anytime and anyplace.

It was just such an air crash that Carl Kuehn, deputy director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) described to the more than 100 people who participated in MEMA's first air crash awareness conference. The conference was held in mid-November. It was to be the first step in the formation of an interagency statewide air crash task force whose charter it is to develop an air crash action plan.

Featured speaker at the conference, Kuehn related the problems and solutions that he found during five days of directing operations at the site of the crash of USAir Flight 142.

Other featured speakers included representatives of the Federal Aviation Administration, Emergency Medical Service, Office of the State Medical Examiner, and National Transportation Safety Board.

The conference was the first step in organizing a statewide air crash task force. It was also the first conference of its kind run by a non-airport service. MEMA has taken the lead in this because of its pivotal position as the state's emergency coordination agency. (Marc Stern)

# *PLAN AHEAD*

## ☞ SAVE THE DATE!

# MEMA
# PUBLIC SAFETY FAIR

## SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1995
## 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

**SOUTH WEYMOUTH NAVAL AIR STATION**
Rt. 18, South Weymouth, Massachusetts

**FREE ADMISSION ♦ AMPLE PARKING**

Entertainment & Information for the Whole Family!
Come and see the latest technology in public safety --
"Jaws of Life" Demonstrations -- K-9 Presentations --
Radio Amateur Demonstrations -- Fire & Police Equipment
Fingerprinting of Children -- And much, much more!

***ATTENTION LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGERS!***
DISPLAY YOUR EQUIPMENT! COME AND BRING YOUR EMERGENCY VEHICLES, ANTIQUE FIRE TRUCKS, D.A.R.E. CAR, MOTORCYCLES, ETC. ETC.!

CALL (508) 697-3600 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

The Massachusetts Emergency
Management Agency
400 Worcester Road
P.O. Box 1496
Framingham, MA 01701

ASS. EM A1.3: 3/2

MEMA NEWS
Newsletter of the Massachusetts
Emergency Management Agency

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

NOV 08 1995

University of Massachusetts
Depository Copy

Volume 3, Number II
Summer 1995

*Great Barrington*

# MEMA praised for aid after tornado hits

It happened suddenly on Memorial Day evening. An unexpected, intense thunderstorm cell in Eastern New York unleashed a tornado that cut a three-mile path of destruction just west of the state line and a seven-mile path within the state.

Directly in the path of the storm were the communities of Great Barrington, Monterey and Egremont. They bore the storm's fury. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) was quick to respond.

Area IV Director John Pappas was notified of the storm within 30 minutes of its 7:30 p.m. touchdown. During the next hour, he arranged for a National Guard Military Police platoon to be dispatched to the area, and began the wheels of help turning for the stricken communities. MEMA knew that the situation was out of the ordinary when Ed McCormack, Emergency Management Director of Great Barrington, asked "for everything they could get their hands on." John also drove to the stricken area. He was to remain there for three weeks.

(Continued on Page 2)

Area IV Director Pappas and Rep. Olver.

Inside this issue

Note from the Director....Page 2
Hurricane Awareness Week....Page 2
Public Safety Fair/SafetyFest....Page 3
National Search, Rescue Conference....Page 4
Major Air Crash Task Force....Page 5
Donated Goods Conference....Page 8

Publication Number: 17053 Pages: 12
Printed: 600 Estimated Cost: $400
Approved by Philmore Anderson, III, State Purchasing Agent
William F. Weld, Governor David Rodham, Director

## *Note from the Director*

MEMA has been very busy of late with the Southern Berkshire Tornado, the National Institute for Urban Search and Rescue Conference, the National Donated Goods Conference, and Emergency Management Week with its many events, including a very successful Public Safety Fair.

We are still working on the Recovery Phase of the Tornado, continuing to seek damage estimates and assessing the fire threat because of the thousands of downed trees. It does appear the number will justify an SBA declaration, but other avenues of financial relief are still not fully determined.

I'm sure I'll leave someone out, but I would like to thank those who put aside the problems of bureaucracy and did a tremendous job. First of all were the regular forces in the towns involved, augmented by dozens of volunteers. Our MEMT (EO144) organization came through with flying colors. Organizations such as Mass. Highway, State Police, National Guard, Turnpike Authority, Department of Environmental Affairs, and MDC not only helped during and just after the Tornado, but also returned to aid in the cleanup effort. I was also impressed by the concern and caring that was shown by our national and state legislators who worked closely with our recovery efforts. The Media were also a valuable tool in getting information to the public especially for publicizing the Information Center set up in Great Barrington.

The remainder of 1995 will also be a very busy time with full-scale exercises for Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim Station on the schedule. We also have several major conferences in the planning stages which will be both entertaining and educational. And, don't forget July's Hurricane Exercise and Utility Information Seminar. Finally, thanks to all the volunteers who help us out. *-- Dave*

## *Hurricane Awareness Week Crowded with Activities*

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) was very busy during Hurricane Awareness Week hosting several major events.

On July 17, Area II sponsored a Hurricane Awareness Workshop at Cape Cod Community College, Hyannis. The workshop was to make coastal residents aware of the measures needed for hurricane safety.

On July 19, the agency held a major exercise as "Hurricane Janice" hit. The exercise was to test the Massachusetts Emergency Management Team and MEMA's communications network.

On July 20, the agency held a Utility Information Seminar at which utility executives were to hear the latest in hurricane information.

The entire week, July 16-22, was proclaimed Hurricane Awareness Week by Gov. William Weld.

In addition, a series of Public Service Announcements were to air on local television stations. The spots cover hurricane preparedness.

## Great Barrington--

**(Continued from the Page 1)**

During those weeks, John would make a series of on-the-spot decisions that were praised by local and state officials. For instance, it required an on-the-spot decision to open a Disaster Information Center (DIC), a central site where the public could find the representatives of the agencies that helped out during the recovery. The agencies included Mass Highway, the Department of Environmental Management, the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, the Metropolitan District Commission, Mass. State Police, and Attorney General's office

The day following the tornado -- Tuesday -- top state officials toured the devastated area with John and State Director David Rodham. Lt. Gov. Argeo Paul Cellucci, Secretary of Public Safety Kathleen O'Toole, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region I Director Louis Elisa participated in the extensive survey and tour of the affected areas.

One of the key needs in the stricken area occurred in the Town of Monterey, where the entire phone system was out of action. John talked with Stefan Grotz, chairman of the Monterey Board of Selectmen, about the situation. John Tommaney, Assistant Operations Officer, suggested that MEMA contact FEMA about the use of the MERS communications vehicle. The MERS truck, a self-contained phone/radio system, that was able to help Monterey cope with the outage until service was restored. The MERS vehicle remained on the scene for a week. John Tommaney and Headquarters Communications Coordinator Steve Staffier responded to assist with the phone outage.

Throughout his three-week stint, John Pappas coordinated with a variety of agencies, working closely with the State Insurance Commission and State Department of Environmental Management Commissioner Peter Webber, as well as with State Sen. Jane Marie Swift (R-Berkshire-Hampden-Hampshire-Franklin) and state Rep. Chris H Hodgkins (D-4th Berkshire). In addition, John and U.S. Rep. John Olver (D-1st Congressional) toured the area extensively.

One of the important highlights of the week was the DIC. Cris Heanue, Recovery Program Manager, and Doug Forbes Jr., Individual Assistance Program Manager, manned the DIC for a week, answering resident questions and concerns. It proved to be very valuable.

**Students from Foxboro's Ahearn Middle School listen to John Tommaney, Assistant Operations Officer, describe the Communications Department during a recent tour of headquarters.**

# A Great 'SafetyFest'

It was a great day for MEMA's Public Safety Fair, renamed this year "SafetyFest '95." Held at the South Weymouth Naval Air Station, the fair was the culmination of "Emergency Management Week," a week full of events that honored emergency responders and services.

Tom Rodger, Area II Director and host of the event, and his staff provided support for the event and are to be congratulated for a job well done.

The event attracted more than 6,000 visitors, who also had a chance to see exhibits from the Navy as it was also Armed Forces Day.

Tom and his staff did a great job not only of publicizing the event, but also of ensuring that there was a wide variety of exhibits, displays, and demonstrations. Among the most popular demonstrations was the E-911 Portable Station that can serve as a full E-911 facility in the event one goes down anywhere across the state. Another

(Continued on Page 4)

# MEMA hosts successful search, rescue conference

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) played host to the National Institute for Urban Search and Rescue's annual training conference from May 3 to 5. It was at the Ramada Inn Rolling Green, Andover.

The conference, which was attended by more than 160 persons, was the first national conference hosted by MEMA. According to Kevin Tully, coordinator of the conference, the success of this event has put MEMA on the national scene and has illustrated that the agency can host events of this magnitude.

The conference, which occurred shortly after the tragic Oklahoma City bombing disaster, attracted several prominent national speakers. Notable among them were Clay Hollister, Deputy Associate Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Battalion Chief Craig Shelley of the New York Fire Department. Chief Shelley is the leader of New York's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force; Hollister directed recovery at the scene of the blast for FEMA Director James Lee Witt.

Director Rodham addresses NIUSR conference.

Both speakers presented riveting accounts of the days and nights that followed the blast

In addition, Assistant Fire Chief Frank Borden of the Los Angeles Fire Department, who is a national authority on urban search and recovery, spoke on the lessons learned in the aftermath of the Kobe earthquake. Chief Borden was on the 20th floor of a hotel, while attending an international conference on urban search and recovery, when the quake hit and caused the entire building to sway

One of the keys to the success of this event was the support from the entire MEMA staff. The success of this conference shows that MEMA, is in the forefront of emergency preparedness

# SafetyFest

(Continued from Page 3)

popular attraction was the Volkswagen Beetle Safety/Dare Cars. There were also rides for children, first aid demonstrations, military displays, police and fire equipment, and the FEMA MERS unit. **(See related photos: Pages 6 and 7)**

It was a day for emergency management to shine as units responded from across the Commonwealth forming row after row of vehicles. It was also the day that "Emergency Managers of the Year" were named for MEMA Areas II and III. Mark Mahoney, New Bedford Emergency Management Director, received the Area II award, while Ralph Risotti, Spencer Emergency Management Director, received the Area III award from Director Bob Lister. In addition, Bob Mims received the "Communicator of the Year Award" from Area II. An unusual award was the "Unsung Hero Award" which was given to Mary Ivens, an Area II Sector Director

Altogether the Public Safety Fair was a huge success and a credit to Director Rodham, who had the foresight to approve the initial fairs in Framingham several years ago, and to Tom and his capable staff. Tom would also like to thank everyone who participated; without you this terrific event would not have been possible.

### *NSEPP 'trains' Russians*

*Nearly everyone has placed a long-distance phone call, at one time or another. But how about conducting training by long distance?*

*Although it may be stretching a point, it certainly illustrates what happened when Argonne Laboratories approached NSEPP about training materials. Argonne's training team was to head to Russia during the spring to train more than 40 Russian nuclear power plant managers.*

*The managers were to receive safety training, using materials and modules created by MEMA's NSEPP Division. The training, conducted under the auspices of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, was meant to give the plant managers a higher skill set.*

# MACTF Continues Work

Recognizing that "all crashes don't happen at airports," Operations Chief Jerry Meister has put together a Major Air Crash Task Force (MACTF) that has been working to establish a statewide air crash response plan.

The Task Force was the result of two commuter air crashes last fall. The first was an American Eagle flight that crashed in Pennsylvania and the second was a commuter airliner that crashed into a soybean field in Indiana. casualty incident, Jerry noted.

> *"All crashes don't happen at airports" -- Jerry Meister*

Director Rodham and other senior agency managers discussed the crashes and realized the Commonwealth's need for a coordinated non-airport air crash response plan. Jerry was given the task of implementing the Task Force, which he did. The Major Air Crash Task Force held its first meeting in November and subgroups were formed to explore specific areas such as Public Information and Communications. Each of the four subgroups that were established were to bring their results to the entire Task Force.

An interim meeting was held in January where some of the results were discussed and where Carl Kuehn, assistant director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, discussed the American Eagle crash there. A second meeting was held in May where the Task Force was again updated on the progress of the subgroups and the status of the interim report. It was estimated that an interim report should be ready in the relatively near term.

**David Perkins addresses MACTF meeting.**

At the second meeting David Perkins, Operations Officer of the Indiana Emergency Management Agency, discussed the Rosewood commuter airliner crash.

The Major Air Crash Task Force will have a broader impact than just air disasters. Because the air crashes are also mass casualty disasters, the MACTF plan should also prove to be flexible to provide the basis for any mass casualty incident.

MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Area II Director opens "SafetyFest"

MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

State Director welcomes visitors

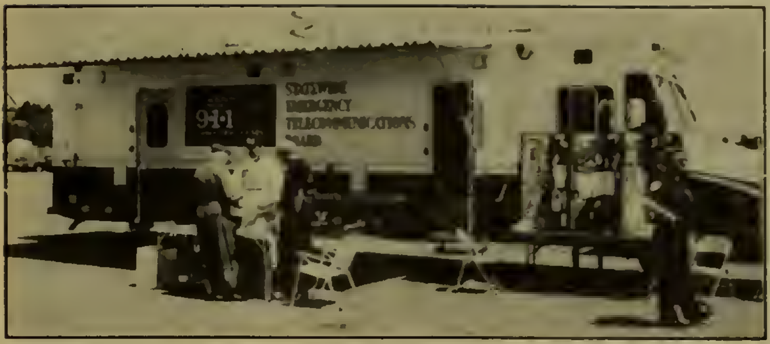
# 'SafetyFest' Scenes

E911 Mobile PSAP proves popular.

VW Safety/Dare Beetles are a hit.

# *E911's Mobile PSAP*

***At the recent "SafetyFest '95," the MEMA NEWS was given a chance to tour the E-911 Mobile PSAP. Built as part of the partnership between NYNEX and E-911, which now is quartered at MEMA Headquarters in Framingham, the PSAP can roll to any place in the state and take the place of a PSAP that is knocked out of action. The mobile PSAP is at right.***


9-1-1
STATEWIDE
EMERGENCY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
BOARD

Operators' consoles

Key comm rack

Sophisticated driving

# Emergency Managers of the Year

SAFETY FAIR
Area II: Mark Mahoney, New Bedford

Area III: Ralph Risotti, Spencer

## *3-Day Newton conference explores donated goods*

A three-day National Donated Goods Conference was sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and hosted by MEMA at the Marriott in Newton.

Often, one thinks merely of Red Cross and the Salvation Army as the recipients of these donated goods following disasters. The fact is that dozens of organizations are involved and the relief efforts of organizations can become logistical nightmares. Fortunately, VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) has done a great job in organizing efforts among diverse groups.

The experience gained in Oklahoma City, Hurricane Andrew, and the Northridge Earthquake provided fertile ground for how "to-do" and how "not-to-do." The most important lesson is that as in any phase of emergency management, pre-planning is essential. In Massachusetts, we have a framework in our local Recovery Annex for a section on Donated Goods, and the subject bears re-evaluation.

Director Rodham was a featured speaker and panel member; Doug Forbes directed the efforts of the first panel of the conference, and Tom Rodger and his Area II Staff provided organizational logistics for the entire conference.

*-- Doug Forbes, Sr.*

## *Area II Red Cross presentations well received*

During major wars, nearly everyone is aware of the American Red Cross and what it did. Soldiers remember the assistance in communicating with families; the medical care, and the emergency financial aid.

During peacetime, we tend to forget, or at least, be more unaware of the work that is carried on by this army of workers. We may look at news reports of disasters from other parts of the world and note, yes, the Red Cross is there, but, the disasters have little impact on us

In general, New Englanders have been fortunate in terms of disasters We have had our share of hurricanes and coastal storms, but, these are old enemies and we are fairly well prepared for them

New Englanders are reasonably attuned to the natural hazards sent this way and believe that we are able to batten down the hatches when the need arises We have not experienced the tornadoes, wild fires, earthquakes, floods, riots, or terrorism which has occurred elsewhere And, as fortunate as we are, we know that when the need arises the Red Cross will respond

Perhaps it is because New Englanders *are* a practical group that we recognize the need for constant training, information-gathering and networking. We believe in finding the information we need when it is offered as it was on May 24 when the Red Cross delivered its message to Area II emergency managers.

During the session, Liberty Black, American Red Cross Massachusetts Disaster Liaison, noted the presentation was the "largest participation seen statewide "

Emergency managers came from all four sectors of Area II to hear, learn, and gather more information to be used "not if, but when " They came to talk about local disasters. They came to hear what can be done and how to obtain assistance.

The emergency managers heard Red Cross staffers describe the history of the organization and how it had evolved its present-day programs, as well as its worldwide ongoing efforts. Discussions were held in the morning and evening, each one helping to strengthen and empower the multi-level, inter-agency relationships.

Area II wishes to thank all those who helped make this event a success.

# *Obituaries*

## Former Area III Director Harold Rossi

Harold F. Rossi, Massachusetts Civil Defense Agency (MCDA) Area III Director for more than 20 years, passed away on June 11, 1995.

Mr. Rossi's adroit handling of the 1953 Worcester Tornado response and recovery (as Deputy Director of the Worcester Civil Defense Agency) brought his talents to the attention of MCDA management.

His business-like management style accomplished goals and brought him accolades from federal, state, and local elected and appointed officials.

Harold will long be remembered in MCDA/MEMA history and by all whose lives he touched. His gruff exterior manner belied a kind, gentle inner self.

His widow, Anna, resides at 90 Edgewood Road, Shrewsbury, MA 01545.

## David Butler, Gardner Director

David H. Butler, Gardner Emergency Management Director since the early 1970s, died on June 1, 1995. His smiling, affable leadersuip will be missed by the many who knew him.

Dave will be remembered for his faithful service to the citizens of Gardner through the Blizzard of 1978, and, more recently, during the Storms of 1992/93.

His attention to duty as the Chief of Security at Mt. Wachusett Community College is legendary.

His widow, Helen, resides at 151 Vernon St., Gardner, MA 01440.

**Sheriff Forman fields a question.**

## *Plymouth Sheriff Attends Brockton Community Forum*

About 150 attended a May 7 meeting in Brockton where Plymouth County Sheriff Peter Forman addressed citizen concerns about various aspects of prisons and public safety. Sheriff Forman was invited to attend the forum by the Rev. Michael W. Walker, Pastor of the Messiah Baptist Church and active in the Brockton community.

Sheriff Forman fielded a wide variety of questions and presented graphic displays depicting prison population statistics. He was questioned at length concerning the possibility of work release programs under which prisoners could be trained in practical skills while performing tasks for community or municipal organizations.

It was also noted that the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department has long prided itself on its communication and integration with the citizens it serves. And, Sheriff Forman noted that good interagency teamwork is a major factor in the efficiency of any single agency or organization.

As such, MEMA Area II has long enjoyed a great working relationship with the Plymouth Country Sheriff's Emergency Management Agency and recognizes the wisdom of Sheriff Forman's belief.

*-- Mary Ivens, Sector Director, Area II*

## Three forecasters retire

*Three members of the National Weather Service staff retired recently and were honored with a party attended by Area III Director Bob Lister and Sector Director Brian Sullivan.*

*Thomas J. Holmes, formerly forecaster-in-charge of the Worcester site, Thomas Emerson and Frank Kehir, both staff meterologists, retired after many years with the forecasting service. Between the three of them, they had more than 115 years with the weather service.*

*According to the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, the weather service had planned to phase out the Worcester site and replace it with an automated system, but, the automated system still needs some fine-tuning before it is fully operational.*

## MEMA helps Boston with hospital, nursing exercise

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) was featured in the April edition of the "Journal of Emergency Nursing." The agency's assistance and participation in a tabletop disaster preparedness drill was noted in an article by Cynthia Nigro, RN. The drill was held by the Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals/Emergency Medical Services-Hospital Committee.

The drill was held last year in October. Personnel from MEMA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), who acted as observers and advisors. Other agencies participating included: utilities, Mayor Menino's office, police and fire departments, as well as representatives of other state and local organizations.

Area I Director Kevin Tully, who was present at the drill, commented on the high level of preparation and professionalism by those who planned and participated in the drill.

Conducted over a six-hour period, the drill consisted of five phases. During each phase, participants handled situations that would normally be associated with a hurricane, power loss, flooding and staff shortages. Each crisis that occurred was handled independent of the others and then there was a review whose purpose was to make hospitals better-prepared in case a hurricane occurs. The drill focused on planning so that participants could discover where the weaknesses in their plans were.

*To obtain a copy of the article contact Kevin Tully at Area I.*

## *Millis hosts multi-town drill*

Emergencies have a tendency to extend beyond town and city lines, county limits, sector divisions, and all other invisible boundaries. The earthquake, tornado, blizzard, fire or other disaster has no respect for the confines prescribed by man. With recognition of this inconveniet, but inevitable fact, Millis EM Co-Directors Buzz Downing and Wayne Simpson petitioned for and received MEMA assistance in conducting a multi-community exercise for emergency response based on the Incident Command System. Millis LEPC Chairman David Byrnes also took part in the exercise. Prior to the event, a planning meeting was held with the Millis emergency managers, Tom Rodger, Area II Director, and Mary Ivens, Sector Director.

Public officials from Millis, Medfield, Holliston, Walpole, Norfolk and Sherborn -- note the crossing of Area borders -- gathered at Medfield State Hospital to receive training. Emergency managers from every related discipline worked through scenarios and exchanged points of view and ideas in what provided to be a most valuable endeavor. Bob Lister, Area III Director, commented that "communities have to think and act together because disasters don't respect political boundaries."

Tom Rodger, obviously pleased at the successful aggregation, noted that "it is gratifying to see communities taking the initiative to join forces for the purpose of improved response training."

*-- Mary Ivens, Sector Director, Area II*

## Worcester: timely exercise

When Worcester Emergency Management Director Bill Trotta petitioned MEMA for exercise funding little did he realize that his exercise and real-life would follow one another fairly closely.

On May 16, Worcester exercised its emergency response capabilities in "Greenwood III," the culmination of a series of tabletop and initial "Greenwood" exercises that were designed to test and improve the city's emergency response. The scenario had a box-truck full of hazardous materials involved in a crash with school buses. It was also a mass casualty, as well as the hazardous materials incident.

Working through the successful exercise, Worcester authorities learned some valuable lessons that they had to apply less than 10 days later.

At that time, the real-world imitated the exercise world when a box-truck full of hazardous materials sprang a leak, forcing the closure of the intersection of Route 190 and I-290 for more than four hours. According to newspaper accounts, a hypochlorite solution spilled from the truck. The fire department feared an explosion or release of chlorine gas as a result of chemicals mixing.

Officials of the nearby Greendale Mall evacuated their customers, although Bill and his emergency management department never recommended it. The mall acted on its own, according to the Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

The experience, like the Greenwood exercise, provided a fertile learning experience for Worcester responders. Worcester had to ask the District Hazardous Materials Team to respond to the leak because of a lack of Class A protective suits. Worcester had to wait three hours, the newspaper noted, for the district team to arrive from Lowell, where it is stationed. The result is that Worcester may appropriate the $230,000 to outfit a hazardous materials response unit and may train responders from surrounding towns to work with the unit.

## *Many exercises held*

It has been a busy spring and summer for MEMA's Exercise Division as both private businesses and towns have held training exercises.

Early in the spring, Wilmington-based Zeneca Resins staged an exercise to which MEMA provided input regarding exercise play and public information. The exercise was well done and dealt with a tanker accident and hazardous materials leak.

In April, Leominster Emergency Management Agency, held an interesting exercise where it staged a drill to exercise staging areas and resource collection. The drill was May 6 and 7.

On May 24, the Town of Needham staged an exercise with an air crash scenario. During this exercise a plane was to have crashed near Route 128 (I-95) and the play was to have been based on this occurrence. It was an interesting, successful exercise. During June, exercises were scheduled in Dukes County (a tabletop), Wilbraham, and at Logan Airport.

***If you would like to submit material to the MEMA NEWS, please send your submission to The Editor, MEMA NEWS, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, 400 Worcester Road, P.O. Box 1496, Framingham, MA 01701-0317. Deadline for the next MEMA NEWS will be Sept. 1, 1995.***

The Massachusetts Emergency
Management Agency
400 Worcester Road
P.O. Box 1496
Framingham, MA 01701

WE DELIVER 011 SPFLD, MA DCR #2
WE DELIVER 011 SPFLD, MA DCR #1